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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/708,154	11/07/2000	Daniel L. Owen	STRATP001	9971
28875	7590	04/22/2004	EXAMINER	
SILICON VALLEY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP			HOLMES, MICHAEL B	
P.O. BOX 721120			ART UNIT	
SAN JOSE, CA 95172-1120			PAPER NUMBER	

2121

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/708,154

Applicant(s)

OWEN ET AL.

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on November 11, 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____



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Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. This Office Action is responsive to application **09/708,154**, filed **November 07, 2000**.
2. **Claims 1-27** have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. Applicant is respectfully remind of the ongoing Duty to disclose 37 C.F.R. 1.56 all pertinent information and material pertaining to the patentability of applicant's claimed invention, by continuing to submitting in a timely manner PTO-1449, Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with the filing of applicant's of application or thereafter.

Drawings

4. The formal drawings have been reviewed by the United States Patent & Trademark Office of Draftperson's Patent Drawings Review.

Specification

5. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is required in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Interpretation

6. Office personnel are to give claims their "**broadest reasonable interpretation**" in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969). See *also *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989) ("During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. . . . The reason is simply that during patent prosecution when claims can be amended, ambiguities should be recognized, scope and breadth of language explored, and clarification imposed. . . . An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process."). *see* MPEP § 2106

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 1-27** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Michael J. Bender & Slobodan P. Simonovic (hereinafter referred to as "*Bender et al.*")**, **"A System Approach for Collaborative Decision Support in Water Resources Planning"** **IEEE, 1996**,
in view of
Steve Glickman, "Interpreting Business Assessment Results" June 8, 1998.

Regarding claims 1, 14, & 27:

Bender et al. teaches,

A collaborative decision support system (*Abstract, page 357*), collecting data, inclusive of policies that form boundaries and decision logic, strategic decision, user importance, uncertainty relationships (*I. Introduction: A. Planning Decisions; B. Decision Processes; & II The Systems Approach: A. Theoretical Systems Framework, page 357-358*), assessing the uncertainties for analysis purpose (*II. The Systems Approach B. Modeling paradigm, page 358; III Collaborative Decision Support: A. Purpose and Scope; B. Modeling the collaborative decision support, page 359*). *Bender et al.* does not teach a tornado diagram. However, *Glickman* teaches a tornado diagram (*Tornado Diagram, page 1*) It would have been obvious at the time the invention was

made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matters pertains, to combine *Bender et al.* with *Glickman* to provide a collaborative decision support and knowledge management system for collecting data and formulating strategic decision, construct policies, and employ a tornado diagram, because the need to manage and more effectively use the tremendous amounts of data available continues to demand the need for enhanced information management technologies. Moreover, in the commercial marketplace, companies strive to maintain a competitive advantage through research and development e.g., marketplace management, strategic decision and decision logic, for the purpose of bringing better products and services to market faster and cheaper in a fast-paced, highly mobile, world-wide marketplace. Finally, uncertainty is a derivative in the marketplace, and the purpose of the tornado diagram is to focus attention on the critical uncertainties associated with the marketplace uncertainty and project management and development.

Regarding claims 2-13 & 15-26:

Claims 2-13 & 15-26 add no novelty and are rejected for the same rational as the independent claim.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and (listed of form PTO-892) not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure as follows. Applicant or applicant's representative is respectfully reminded that in process of patent prosecution i.e., amending of claims in response to a

rejection of claims set forth by the Examiner per Title 35 U.S.C. The patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and any objections made. Moreover, applicant or applicant's representative must clearly show how the amendments avoid or overcome such references and objections. *See* 37 CFR § 1.111(c).

Correspondence Information

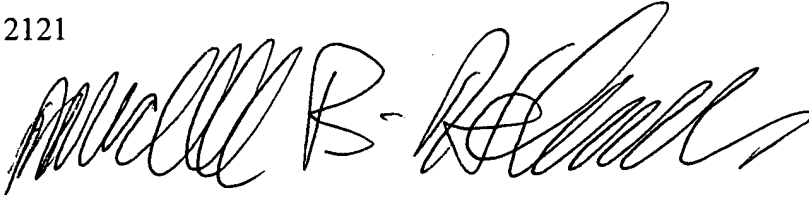
10. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael B. Holmes** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 308-6280**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send the Examiner, a facsimile transmission regarding After Final issues, please send it to **(703) 746-7238**. If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7239**. If you would like to send a Non-Official (draft) facsimile transmission the fax is **(703) 746-7240**. If any attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **Anthony Knight**, may be reached at **(703) 308-3179**.

Any response to this office action should be mailed too:

Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231. Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist, located on the fourth floor of **Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia**.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more legible than the last name "Holmes".

Michael B. Holmes

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence

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United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office